ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

Method and apparatus are provided for polishing substrates comprising conductive and low k dielectric materials with reduced or minimum substrate surface damage and delamination. In one aspect, a method is provided for processing a substrate including positioning a substrate having a conductive material form thereon in a polishing apparatus having a rotational carrier head and a rotatable platen, wherein the substrate is disposed in the rotational carrier head and the platen has a polishing article disposed thereon, rotating the first carrier head at a first carrier head rotational rate and rotating a platen at a first platen rotational rate, contacting the substrate and the polishing article, accelerating the first carrier head rotational rate to a second carrier head rotational rate and accelerating the first platen rotational rate to a second platen rotational rate, and polishing the substrate at the second carrier head rotational rate and at the second platen rotational rate.